

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Portmoak Village Hall

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman), B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), G Cox, S Forde, D Morris, A Muszynski and T Smith; and WCllrs: C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; and 18 members of the public.

Apologies: None.

- 2. Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May 2018 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

None.

- 4. Chairman's Annual Report.** The CC received and noted the Chairman's Report for 2019:

We have had two firsts, so far as I am aware, for Portmoak this year, both symptomatic of the change in attitude of Perth and Kinross Council (henceforth PKC) that I referred to in my Report last year. The CC received a visit from Roz McCall, Convenor of the Planning and Development Management Committee, to discuss various issues related to the handling of planning applications; and then our ward councillors conducted the new Chief Executive of PKC on a tour of our Ward, including a visit to the sites of a number of road issues in Portmoak. On the same theme we have had an encouraging correspondence with Angus Forbes, Convenor of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee. This more responsive attitude from PKC has recently been manifested in the willingness of the planning department to put right a mistake in the supporting paperwork for an application on the PKC website and to give a sensible time in which to respond to the full information thus revealed.

A big percentage of the CC's work relates to planning and roads. Planning has been relatively quiet this year. We have had to consider 29 new applications this year (26 last year), significantly less than two years ago. We commented on several, but objected to only one, that for the erection of ten 2mw gas turbines for the production of electricity on a corner of the Westfield site. This was not something that was in the original in principle consent. Fife Council granted consent for this, despite our objection and those of others. On a positive note the developers have recently taken steps to set up a Community Liaison Committee, which they have asked me to chair as an independent chairman. Portmoak and four Fife CCs are represented on it as well as the two local authorities, the developers and a councillor from each of our ward 8 and two Fife wards. We have held a preliminary meeting. Whilst there will be some survey work done on the site this summer, construction of the Energy from Waste plant will not begin until this time next year, with completion likely in 2023. This Committee is intended to act as a two way channel of communication, but not supersede direct communication with the developers by anyone with particular grounds for complaint arising out of operations on

the ground. The CC is still considering its response to the only other applications of note, namely the applications to vary the existing permission by demolishing the remainder of the Lomond Inn and replacing it with a new build house. The CC is aware that there is some support for an attempt by a community body to buy the site of the inn.

Roads are a never ending issue and progress is slow. The trouble is that the department in PKC is fundamentally understaffed. They have a backlog of over 500 hundred requests to be added to the existing programme of works. In order to cope with this they have devised a system of prioritising requests by reference to number of accidents, road environment, alignment, school travel etc and cost. Whilst one recognises the need for a prioritising system the problem with what is proposed is that cost is the overriding factor. High risk, low cost situations which come top of the tree are rare birds! However, we are making slow progress with the long standing issues of access and safety at the school, and the safe footpath from Scotlandwell to the church to the extent that they are now on the roads committee agenda, as is also the possibility of traffic lights at Balgedie Toll. A 20mph speed limit is about to be installed in Kinnesswood for a trial period. I regret to have to say that we were not able to overcome the title problems at the Moss Road carpark, so that remains to be used as such at the pleasure of the owners.

Roads related is the proposal, supported by the Kinross-shire Partnership, to declare the "Heart 200" as a tourist route. This is modelled on the Route 500 in the North West Highlands, which has been very successful, some would say too successful, in attracting tourist traffic. Included in the route are the roads round the loch, the A911 and B9097. These are not single track roads like the Highlands but there are problem points like the Balgedie Toll. Tourist traffic would help to make the case for traffic lights there. It would also create opportunities for the existing businesses on those roads and perhaps encourage new ones.

I have continued to wrestle with the problem of finding a replacement for our full up graveyard. I have identified a possible site but to date it has not been assessed for suitability by PKC, despite reminders.

Andrew Muszynski and Graham Cox have been working steadily on our Resilience Plan through the year and would hope to have something on which to go public shortly. Things like the data protection regulations make it difficult to put together something whose essence is communication.

Thanks to the many of you who filled in the questionnaire produced by our Ward Councillors surveying transport needs and deficiencies. We look forward to seeing the outcome of that exercise. It is apparent that the categories who feel the lack of public transport most are the elderly and the high school age groups.

During the year PKC have introduced a revised scheme of establishment for community councils. It will come into effect at the beginning of November. The most noticeable changes will be that the year-end moves to the 31st August with the AGM moving to October and that a part of Loch Leven will come within our jurisdiction. As most of the houses in the parish overlook the loch it has seemed anomalous that we have had no technical interest in it and what happens on it, even though we are the area most affected. Kinross and Orwell CCs have been willing to share and I am grateful to them for that. It

should mean that we are involved in any consultations about the loch sponsored by SNH and others.

I am grateful to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work during the year. Tom Smith has indicated that he wishes to stand down at the end of this meeting. He has been on the Council, I think, for longer than any of us and I thank him particularly, not least for his work in coordinating the Paths Group which involves a lot of work, physically as well as mentally. The CC will be looking for a volunteer to take over the Paths Group, and someone to take Tom's place on the Council.

We are all standing down after the October meeting as this is election year and I hope there will be sufficient candidates for the 8 places to trigger an election. There could be no better indication of a healthy community. I myself shall not be a candidate; I have been a member for, I think, eight years and chairman for six. It has been mostly enjoyable and I have made new friends through it, but it is time for a new face.

Malcolm Strang Steel. 08/05/19

- 5. Treasurer's Annual Report.** The Treasurer reported that with support from PKC outstanding current and historic legal liabilities had been met. Therefore at the year-end 31st March 2019 there was: £0.00 in the General Account; and £1,144.41 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,144.41. In the No3 Holding account there was £0.00.

6. Approval of Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year to 31 March 2019 had been subject to independent examination and as such submitted for approval by the Community Council prior to their submission to Perth & Kinross Council. The accounts were duly approved by the CC and the Treasurer instructed to submit them to Perth and Kinross Council and to obtain the funding grant for the forthcoming financial year.

The full Income and Expenditure of the CC's accounts can be found on the CC website.

7. Office Bearers for 2019

The following office bearers were appointed until November 2019:

Chairman: CClr M Strang Steel

Proposed by CClr Cox and Seconded by CClr T Smith.

Secretary: CClr R Cairncross

Proposed by CClr M Strang Steel and Seconded by CClr B Calderwood.

Treasurer: CClr B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr Cox and Seconded by CClr T Smith

Deputy Chairman: B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr Cox and Seconded by CClr T Smith.

- 8. Revised Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils effective November 2019:** The CC noted that a new Council would be appointed following an election on Thursday 7th

November 2019. Thereafter the financial year would conclude on 31st August 2020 with the next AGM being Tuesday 13th October 2020.

- 9. Date of next AGM:** 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at Portmoak Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 14th May 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCllrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), B Calderwood (Treasurer), G Cox, S Forde, D Morris, A Muszynski and T Smith; and WCllrs M Barnacle, W Robertson; and PC D Stapleton and PS Michelle Burns of Police Scotland; and 18 members of the public.

Apologies: None.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the CC meeting held on 9th April 2019 were approved.

3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 3 School Access - policy on parking and safe access routes for children. There had been some progress. The CC learned that the work needed to ensure safe access routes for children around the School had been commissioned by PKC (improved crossing markings and an improved build-out in the car park). In due course these would be referred to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee. Likewise, once all changes had been completed, preparation of a Protocol for all car users taking children to and from the school was in hand. Regrettably there had been no progress in securing consensus on limited restrictions on parking on Buchan Avenue. There was a need to resolve this matter: large vehicles found it difficult to negotiate Buchan Avenue often finding it necessary to do so by driving contrary to the existing one-way system; access of emergency vehicles could be impeded; vehicles could be parked close to the school gates on the spur off Buchan Avenue leading to the School. Although provision had been made for residents who might lose parking outside their home, the CC heard from a resident that there were difficulties arising from any solution so far identified. This was a recurrent problem (not restricted to the times of entry and exit from the school) that merited a solution and for which none so far had been acceptable to some residents. **ACTION: At the suggestion of WCllr W Robertson, the Chairman will write to the Convenor of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee seeking that an "Arngask solution" to restrict all traffic movement around the school at entry and exit times be considered.** Cllr Morris indicated that it was not clear what was meant by the "Arngask solution" and if it involved restricting vehicular access up Bruce Road from the Main Street it would cause chaos on the Main Steet with the A911 completely blocked with traffic.

Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. There had been no progress. WCllrs advised that PKC Road Safety Officers had confirmed that completing the outstanding option appraisal of eligible routes was on their list to deliver within the current financial year. It was unclear how the new system of ranking priorities for road safety improvements would affect this. **ACTION: WCllrs will monitor and report progress.**

Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. The project was progressing with a Plan now near conclusion. A recent power cut had been rapidly resolved and the local network was strengthened by a number of "interconnectors" which enabled power to be rerouted in the event of local damage.

Item 3 Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. Agreement on the new boundaries as they affect Loch Leven had been sought by the Chairman. WCllrs confirmed that Kinross CC had so agreed and that it was understood that Milnathort and Orwell CC had also done so.

Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery. No progress. PKC had yet to comment on the suitability of a potential site.

Item 4 Rural Transport. WCllrs reported that there had been more than 200 responses to the circulated questionnaire. These were currently being analysed and would be shared with CCs at the forthcoming meeting of the Kinross Forum.

4. Reports:

1. **Police:** PC D Stapleton introduced PS Michele Burns who had recently taken up post as Community Sergeant for Kinross-shire. The CC offered a warm welcome to both. PC Stapleton also reported that the local community team would shortly be at full strength with the new appointment of PC B Clark. 1) The CC noted the local report from PC D Stapleton that, although there had been no recent incidents in Portmoak, there was criminality elsewhere in Kinross-shire. The long established concern that Police Reports never included accident reports was reviewed. This was now important information and was all the more relevant as it would explicitly be included in the formula applied by PKC Roads in determining priorities for road safety improvements. It appeared that current police practice does not register such accidents unless there is harm to individuals. The CC noted that the new VAS were having effect and were readily revealing to the general public where vehicles passing a VAS exceeded the required limit. PS Michelle Burns offered to make available advice to stay within 30mph speed limits that could be promoted through affixing clear labels to wheelie bins. 2) The CC also noted the Area Commander Bulletins of 10th, 17th and 24th April and of 1st and 8th May.
2. **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 30th April was £0.00 in the General Account; and £1,144.41 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,144.41. The "Holding Account" No. 3 held £0.00.

3. Planning: to include:

a) New applications:

1. **19/00558/FLL** Erection of a dwellinghouse and garage (Lomond Inn), Kinnesswood.
2. **19/00559/CON** Demolition of building Former Lomond Hotel, Kinnesswood.

The Chairman explained that the CC had to consider the two planning applications before it. It could object; make comment; or take no action. In discussion the CC heard from the developer, Andrew Sinclair, and his structural engineer who pointed out that the current shell of the old Inn was inherently unstable. The CC found that it was not sighted on a very recent submission from Historic Environment Scotland. It determined to adjourn the meeting aiming to reconvene shortly to take account of the submission.

b) Progress with Developments:

1. **FIFE 16/0366/EIA** Planning permission in Principle; **FIFE 17/03377/FUL** Westfield, Erection of gas peaking plant; and **FIFE 18/02342/ARC** Energy from Waste plant. The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Hargreaves Land to chair an initial meeting to explore the establishment of a Community Liaison Group. That meeting had confirmed a commitment to proceed with the Group and with a membership reflecting community and ward councillors from both Fife and Perth and Kinross, as well as developer and planning authority interests. Full details of membership of the group together with its Terms of Reference will be circulated when they become available. A formal first meeting will be held before the end of August.

4. Roads:

a) Environment and Infrastructure Committee. To consider the following papers:

1. Perth and Kinross 20mph Speed Limit Trial (Kinnesswood). The CC noted the proposed arrangements would be commissioned shortly.
2. *Road Safety Projects Assessment Criteria (with Appendix 1).* The CC had concerns about this policy. There was an inconsistency in methodology in determining what

would be the nominator and what the denominator in determining the priority ratio for any proposed improvement. Plainly the approach appears to be prejudiced against expensive yet worthy developments. The CC also thought that excluding potential safety improvements because they were not on Council owned land was inappropriate, particularly in rural areas. . **ACTION. The Chairman would write to the Convenor of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Angus Forbes, setting out its concerns.**

a) To note progress.

1. *State of the roads within the original phase of Whitecraigs.* The CC noted that the problem of a poor road surface was not unique to the Upper Whitecraigs road where recent building development may have been a significant contributory factor. Other parts of the Whitecraigs estate were also affected. There was a feeling that this was beyond pothole repair and that resurfacing was merited. **ACTION: Ward Councillors would take the matter forward and report.**
2. *Status of safety improvements at Balgedie Toll junction.* This was recognised across Kinross-shire as a dangerous junction. PKC had confirmed that the junction is included in the list of potential “signalised junctions” having been assessed and ranked according to the road safety projects assessment criteria recently agreed by the Environment and Infrastructure Committee. **ACTION: WCllr C Purves would check the ranking in the List of Priorities.**
3. *Heart 200: The CC noted proposals for this new tourist Route.* While not objecting the proposal in principle the CC was concerned that the routing would increase traffic looping around the Balgedie Toll at the junction there. **ACTION: The Chairman would contact the organisers to explain the problems caused by the present Heart 200 routing and seek their support in securing improved safety at the junction.**
5. **Paths Group:** CCllr Tom Smith presented an update of the Paths Group Action Plan and confirmed that there would be future updates. The current work programme was up to date. Tom also intimated that he would seek to retire from the Council and that this would be his last meeting. The CC thanked him for his sterling work for the Paths Group and the community over the past 9 years.
5. **Supplementary Guidance,** to note PKC Guidance for comment by 12th June: The CC would comment on the Draft Supplementary Guidance: a) Airfield Safeguarding; and b) Delivering Zero Waste. In respect the latter the CC noted that there was currently only one landfill site with capacity within Perth and Kinross but that it was not currently operational. **ACTION: WCllrs undertook to find out to where PKC was sending its landfill waste.**
6. **PKC Ward Cllr Reports:** WCllrs judged that as the matters they would like to raise were not urgent. They would defer discussion until the next meeting of the Council.
7. **Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.** None
8. **AOCB: None.**
9. **As noted above the meeting adjourned until 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at the Portmoak hall to consider any comment it may wish to make on the planning applications relating to the Lomond Inn.**
10. **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 11th June 2019**. The Meeting closed at 9.40 PM.